

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 HA-05 AID-05
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P 041624Z AUG 78
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 3763

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, ML
SUBJECT: SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR MALI

REF: BAMA KO 2196

1. SUMMARY. DURING THE JULY 17-19 VISIT OF DEFENSE ATTACHE LIEUTENANT COLONEL HUGHES AND COLONEL BROMAN OF CINCUER, THE FY-1979 IMET PROGRAM FOR MALI WAS AGREED. IN ADDITION, LIEUTENANT COLONEL FILIFING SISSOKO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION, ASKED COLONEL HUGHES AND THE AMBASSADOR FOR POLICE TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES AND ENGINEER EQUIPMENT UNDER THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. THE MALI GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO LIKE TO BUY MILITARY SHOES AND CLOTHING FROM US. WE REQUEST ANSWERS TO VARIOUS QUESTIONS IN ORDER TO REPLY TO THE MALIANS. END SUMMARY.

2. LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD D HUGHES, DEFENSE ATTACHE (RESIDENT IN DAKAR), AND COLONEL MARK BROMAN, USCINCEUR, VISITED BAMA KO FROM JULY 17 TO 19 TO WORK OUT A PROGRAM TO UTILIZE THE \$100,000 IN IMET FUNDS REQUESTED FOR MALI FOR FY-1979. DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD WITH LT COL BOUGARI SANGARE, CHIEF OF STAFF
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OF THE ARMY, AND ON JULY 19 THE PROGRAM WAS AGREED. DETAILS ON COURSES AND COSTS HAVE BEEN TRANSMITTED BY USCINCEUR (ECJ4/7-SA 12448 DTG 311048Z JUL 78 AND ECJ4/7-SA 12450 DTG 311050Z JUL 78). BASICALLY THE PROGRAM CALLS FOR AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LABORATORY (INCLUDING INSTALLATION AND SPARE PARTS); AN ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR (GS-7 WITHOUT FAMILY); TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES

FOR ONE NCO EACH IN ENGINEERING (EXPLOSIVES); RADIO MAINTENANCE, AND PARATROOP INSTRUCTION WITH REQUIRED ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TRAINING BEFOREHAND; AND REFRESHER TRAINING IN ENGLISH IN THE UNITED STATES FOR ONE ALREADY QUALIFIED NCO WHO WILL RETURN TO WORK IN THE LANGUAGE LABORATORY.

3. ON JULY 18 THE AMBASSADOR AND COLONEL HUGHES CALLED ON LIEUTENANT COLONEL FILIFING SISSOKO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE RULING MILITARY COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION, TO BRIEF HIM ON THE IMET PROGRAM (IT WAS ALSO COLONEL HUGHES' FAREWELL COURTESY VISIT). SISSOKO HAS NO OFFICIAL POSITION IN THE GOVERNMENT BUT IS KNOWN TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING AN EYE ON DEFENSE MATTERS FOR PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE WHO IS ALSO MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, INTERIOR, AND SECURITY. IN THE COURSE OF THE MEETING IT BECAME QUITE CLEAR THAT SISSOKO WAS VERY MUCH INFORMED ON OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH COL SANGARE AND THAT IT WAS HE WHO HAD APPROVED THE CONTENT OF THE PROGRAM. COL SISSOKO COMMENTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF MALI WAS MOST PLEASED THAT A MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES WAS BEING RESUMED.

4. SISSOKO THEN SAID HE WOULD LIKE THE UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE TRAINING FOR THE MALIAN POLICE, MAKING CLEAR HE WAS SPEAKING OF CIVILIAN LAW OFFICERS, NOT MILITARY POLICE. WE SAID OUR UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT THAT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE BECAUSE THE CONGRESS HAD PASSED LEGIS-
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LATION ABOLISHING FEDERAL PROGRAMS TO TRAIN FOREIGN NATIONALS IN THE PUBLIC SECURITY FIELD. WE PROMISED TO CHECK, HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO GIVE HIM A DEFINITIVE RESPONSE.

5. SISSOKO MOVED ON TO MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SAYING HE WAS AWARE THAT UNDER PRESENT POLICY THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT FURNISH LETHAL EQUIPMENT TO MALI, BUT NON-LETHAL MATERIAL WAS ANOTHER MATTER AND HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ENGINEER EQUIPMENT TO AID IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIS COUNTRY. HE SAID HE WAS ASKING FOR IT UNDER THE "MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM" (THE LAST THREE WORD IN ENGLISH). WE TOLD HIM THAT EVEN NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT REQUIRED A PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION, THAT MALI WAS NOT NOW ELIGIBLE, THAT THE PROCESS WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, BUT THAT WE WOULD COMMUNICATE HIS WISHES TO WASHINGTON.

6. WE HAVE A SEPARATE FORMAL REQUEST FROM COL SANGARE TO BUY REPEAT BUY FROM THE US GOVERNMENT 220,000 METERS OF KHAKI TERGAL UNIFORM MATERIAL, 30,000 US WIDE BELTS, AND 30,000 PAIRS OF RANGER BOOTS (THE SIZES TO BE SPECIFIED ONCE AGREEMENT TO THE SALE HAS BEEN REACHED IN PRINCIPLE).

7. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE RESPONSES TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS SO THAT WE MAY REPLY TO THE MALIANS: WHAT IS THE ACTUAL SITUATION WITH REGARD TO FOREIGN POLICE TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES? ARE THERE NON-FEDERAL PROGRAMS THAT MIGHT MEET THE NEED? THE GRM WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO FINANCE ANY COSTS. WHAT ARE MALI'S PROSPECTS FOR FMS AND/OR MAP CREDITS? WHAT WOULD THE REQUIRED NEXT STEPS BE? WHAT ARE THE PRICES FOR THE SHOES AND CLOTHING THE GRM WISHES TO BUY AND HOW SHOULD WE GO ABOUT IT?

8. WE WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE.
BYRNE

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